



Expectations of Foster Parents



STATE OF WISCONSIN



Foster Parent Pre-Placement Training



A letter to foster parents





Information to be Communicated to Foster Parents



- Ch. DCF 37, Admin. Code
 - Part A and Part B
- Questions to ask before placement

● ● ● | Sharing Information

- Who to share information with
- When to share it
- How to share it
- Examples of what to share:
 - Observations of behavior
 - Family interactions
 - Positive feedback
 - Changes in your family or residence
 - Criminal activity by any household member





Emergencies and Special Circumstances

- Fire: report by no later than the end of the next working day
- Serious illness or injury: report as soon as possible
- Call 911 immediately if a child or anyone else in your home may cause physical violence or harm
- Report these **immediately**:
 - Death of a foster child
 - Life-threatening, serious illness or injury
 - Child missing from care
 - Other crisis





Contact between You and Your Agency



- Licensing code requirements
- Agency requirements
- Coordinating schedules



Voices of foster care



Confidentiality

- How would you feel?
- Share ONLY with those who need to know and who are authorized!
- Consent forms





Confidentiality



“I read your diary...”



“This is what your mom said...”



“Oooh I’ve heard all about you!”





Confidentiality: Case Scenarios

- How will you respond?



● ● ● | Confidentiality

- Foster children CANNOT....
 - ...be photographed or interviewed by the media without written permission from parents or legal guardian
- Foster parents CANNOT...
 - ...speak to the media about children in their home
 - ...provide information to people who are not authorized to receive it





Whose Rights??

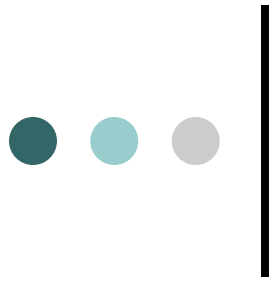
- Birth parents' rights v. foster parents' rights
- Who has the right to...
 - Decide if a child can get a haircut
 - Sign a school permission slip
 - Give permission for ear piercing





Voices of foster care





Case Record



- Licensing requirements and agency requirements
- Must be kept secure

Must include:

- School information
- Child's name, nickname, and any alias by which the child is known
- Child's birthdate
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of persons to be notified in an emergency
- Date of placement in your home
- Name, address, and phone number of person or agency placing the child
- Name of physician to call in an emergency
- Medical information
- Name and address of dentist, dates of dental exams
- School information

Uniform Foster Care Rate

- Offsets costs – *will not pay for everything!*

- Four components:

- Initial Clothing Allowance
- Basic Maintenance Rate
- Supplemental Payment
 - CANS Tool
- Exceptional Payment

- Fee waivers

- Uniform Foster Care Rate Brochure:

http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/publications/pdf/dcf_p_pfs0142.pdf



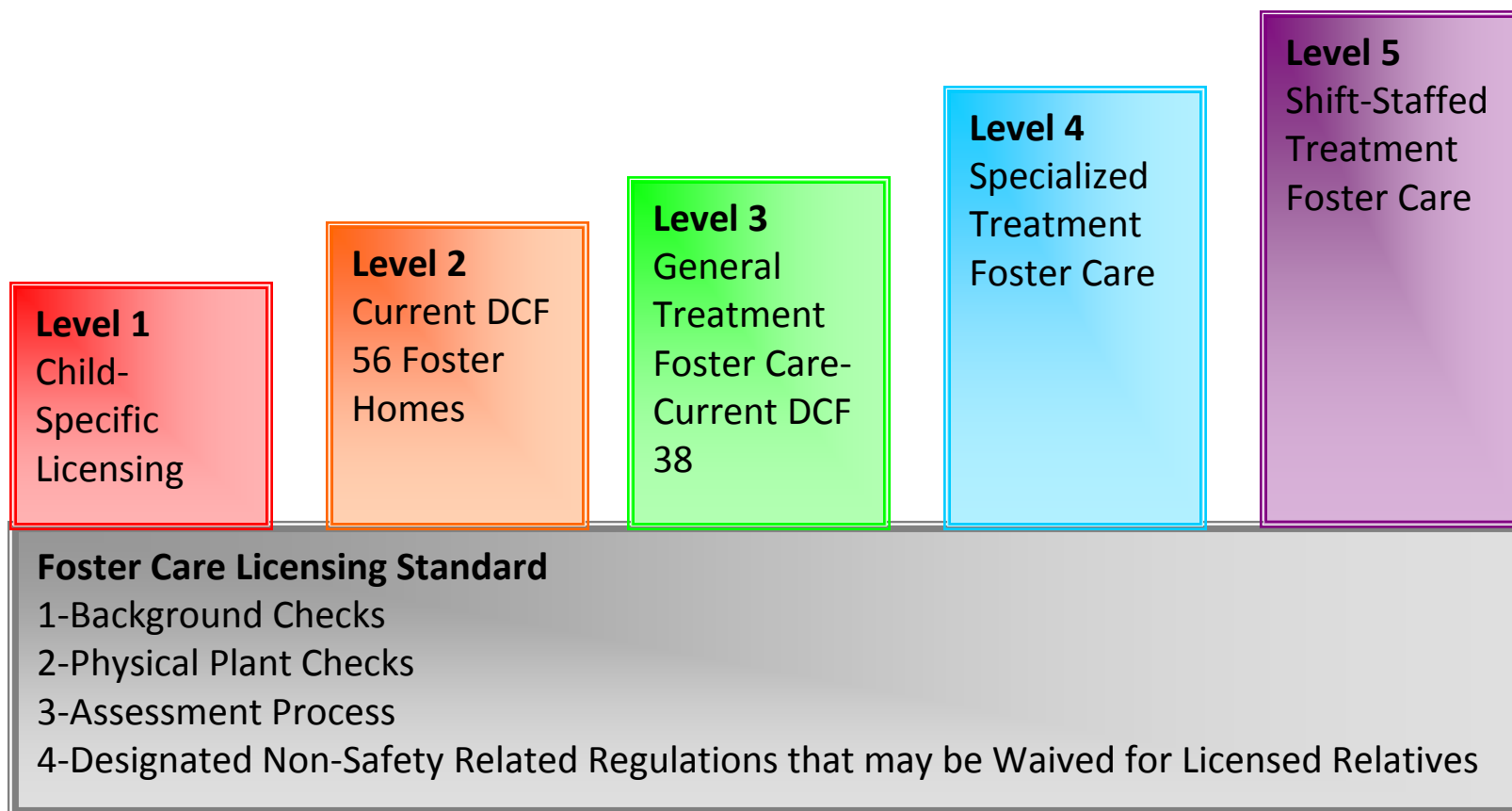


Voices of foster care





Levels of Care





Training Requirements

	Pre-Placement Training	Initial Licensing Training	Ongoing Training
Level One	6 hours	None required	None required
Level Two	6 hours	30 hours	10 hours
Level Three	36 hours	24 hours	18 hours
Level Four	40 hours (4 of which must be child or population-specific)	30 hours (6 of which must be child or population-specific)	24 hours (8 of which must be child or population-specific)
Level Five (Program Manager)	40 hours (4 of which must be child or population-specific)	30 hours (6 of which must be child or population-specific)	24 hours (8 of which must be child or population-specific)
Level Five (Home Staff)	40 hours (15 of which must be child or population-specific)	None required	24 hours in each subsequent year of employment (8 of which is child or population-specific)



Concerns about Child Maltreatment

- You are **required** to notify the agency **immediately** if you believe that a child in foster care has been abused or neglected, has been threatened with abuse or neglect, or you have reason to believe that the child will be abused or neglected. This applies to any child in foster care, not just those in your home.

What to do When a Child Discloses Abuse or Neglect

- This will probably be difficult for both of you
- Find a safe, quiet place to talk
- Get to their eye level
- Listen without judging
- Do NOT interrogate or coach
- Be honest that you have to share the information, explain how you will share this
- Stay calm and don't show your reactions
- Let them know you care about them
- Thank them for telling you and let them know they are safe
- Let them know this was not their fault





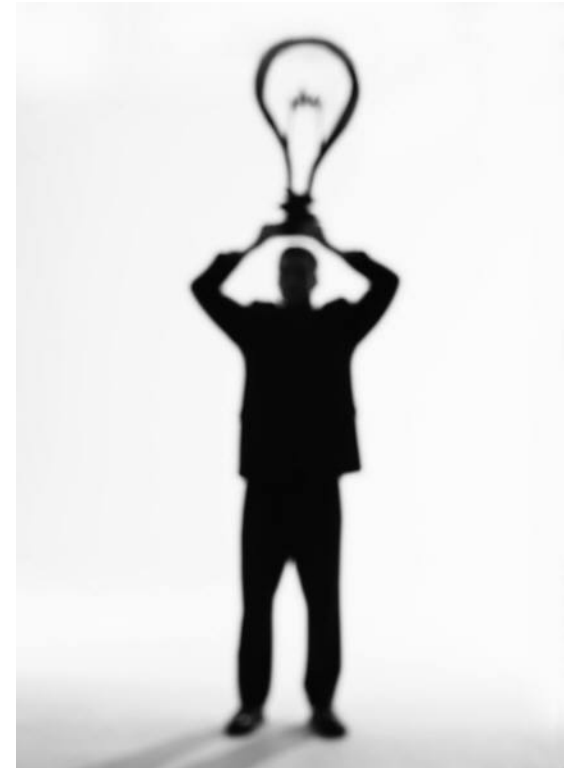
Did You Know??

- ... That foster parents are reported for allegations of child abuse and neglect at a higher frequency than the general public, but the substantiation rates for the general public are higher than those for foster parents.
- Talk with your licensing worker about the process of investigating allegations



Minimizing the Risk of Allegations

- Before bringing a child into your home, you can:
- Find out as much as you can about the child's history of abuse or neglect
- Ask the caseworker if the child has a history of making allegations against caregivers
- Do not accept placement of a child that you do not feel you can care for adequately





Minimizing the Risk of Allegations

- While a child is in your home, you can:
 - Work with the child's team to identify the child's needs and work together to meet those needs
 - Follow all foster care laws, licensing rules, and policies
 - Create and consistently enforce house rules
 - Keep the case record updated and identify behaviors, comments, or interactions that seem unusual or out of the ordinary for that child
 - Promptly report any unusual incident or injury
 - Attend additional training





Fostering Children Impacted by Sexual Abuse

- Additional considerations:
 - Modifying house rules, including always being clothed in common areas of your home and restricting the parents' bedroom to parents only
 - Providing a **high** level of supervision, know what the safety plan is and what the supervision expectations are
 - Not leaving a child who has been sexually abused alone with anyone of the same gender of the abuser
 - Working with the birth family and maintaining a respectful and empathetic relationship may be difficult if members of the birth family contributed to the abuse





Coping with Maltreatment Allegations

- Independent investigation done by another county
- Support from other foster parents
- Other things to consider:
 - Maintain a professional attitude
 - Ask for help in understanding the assessment and investigation process
 - Document your conversations or meetings and ask for copies of all of the documents
 - Read through all documentation and ask questions about anything that is confusing or inaccurate
 - Maintain your family's routine



● ● ● | Licensing Concerns

- Process for addressing concerns
- Complaints or concerns about physical environment, care of the children, discipline, other violations of licensing code
- Review DCF 56 regularly to make sure you are following the requirements





Licensing Violations

- Consequences for licensing violations:
 - Correcting the licensing violation and maintaining your license
 - Revocation of your license
 - Agency will provide documentation about the basis for the revocation and about the appeal process





Grievances and Appeals

- You can file grievances regarding decisions made about your home or the children in your home
- Each agency will have specific policies
- You can appeal decisions about your license, your reimbursement rate, the children in your home
 - Pay attention to time limits!
 - These appeals are different from those about child abuse or neglect substantiations



Requests for Removal of a Child

- Foster parents, agencies, or tribes may decide that a child needs to be moved
- You are required to give agencies 30 days notice when requesting that a child be moved
- Agency will provide you with a 30-day notice if the child has been in your home for more than six months
 - This is not true if the agency determines that the child is unsafe or other emergencies exist
 - You can appeal an agency's request to move the child if the child has been in your home for more than six months



Foster Parent Insurance Program

- Reimbursement for damages or loss caused by children placed in their homes and not covered by insurance policies, or injury or damage caused by foster parents to the foster child or for acts done by foster parents for which they are sued by the child's parent, if not caused by negligence of the foster parent
- “Insurer of last resort”
- 90-day timeline
- Must have documentation and receipts, and verification from licensing worker



